

1 In the claims:

2 1. An imaging system, comprising:

3 a platen;

4 an imager, the imager being disposed in the imaging system to detect an image of
5 an original in a scanned region of the platen;

6 a cover, wherein an underside of the cover includes an identifiable pattern
7 disposed over the platen; and

8 a processor, wherein the processor is capable of processing a scanned image of an
9 original from the imager to generate a digital image file, and wherein the processor is
10 capable of recognizing the identifiable pattern and removing data from regions of the
11 digital image file including the identifiable pattern.

12 2. The imaging system of claim 1, comprising:

13 rollers disposed in the system to advance originals through the system, wherein
14 the rollers include the identifiable pattern.

15 3. The imaging system of claim 1, comprising:

16 a controller, wherein the controller controls scanning by the imager.

17 4. The imaging system of claim 1, wherein the processor uses a pattern matching
18 algorithm to recognize the identifiable pattern.

19 5. A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:

20 scanning an image of a scanned region while an original is located in the scanned
21 region;

22 generating a digital image file from the scan;

23 detecting an identifiable pattern in the digital image file, wherein the identifiable
24 pattern is adjacent to the original; and

25 removing image data from a portion of the digital image file including the
26 identifiable pattern.

27 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of removing image data includes the
28 step of:

29 executing a pattern matching algorithm, wherein the pattern matching algorithm
30 compares a stored version of the identifiable pattern with the digital image file.

31 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of detecting an identifiable pattern
32 comprises:

33 detecting an identifiable pattern located on at least one of an underside of a cover
34 and a roller of an imaging system.

- 1 8. The method of claim 5, comprising:
2 storing the digital image file after removing the image data.
- 3 9. The method of claim 5, comprising:
4 producing a copy of the original using the digital image file.
- 5 10. An imaging system, comprising:
6 a platen;
7 an imager disposed in the imaging system to detect an image of an original in a
8 scanned region of the platen;
9 a cover, wherein an underside of the cover is disposed over the platen; and
10 a processor, wherein the processor is capable of processing a digital image file
11 from a scan of an original, and wherein the processor is capable of storing image data
12 from a preliminary scan of the scanned region and comparing the image data from the
13 preliminary scan with the digital image file and removing extraneous images from the
14 digital image file based on the comparison.
- 15 11. The imaging system of claim 10, wherein the processor uses a pattern
16 matching algorithm to compare image data from the preliminary scan with the digital
17 image file.
- 18 12. A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:
19 performing one or more preliminary scans of a scanned region without an original
20 present;
21 storing image data from the preliminary scan;
22 scanning the scanned region while an original is present in the scanned region;
23 generating a digital image file from the scan of the original; and
24 removing extraneous image data from the digital image file based on a
25 comparison of the digital image file with the image data from the one or more preliminary
26 scans.
- 27 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of removing image data comprises:
28 executing a pattern matching algorithm to match image data from the one or more
29 preliminary scans with the digital image file.
- 30 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of performing one or more
31 preliminary scans comprises:
32 performing periodic preliminary scans.
- 33 15. The method of claim 12, comprising:

1 generating a message indicating that maintenance or cleaning of an imaging
2 system is required based on the preliminary scan.

3 16. A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:
4 scanning a scanned region while an original is located in the scanned region;
5 generating a digital image file from the scan;
6 detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern of the
7 original from the digital image file; and
8 filling in a region of the digital image file with at least one of the background
9 color and background pattern.

10 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of detecting at least one of a
11 background color and a background pattern comprises:

12 detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern that
13 comprises greater than a predetermined amount of an area of the scanned region.

14 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of detecting at least one of a
15 background color and a background pattern comprises:

16 detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern that
17 comprises greater than a predetermined amount of an area of the original.

18 19. A method of generating a digital image file, comprising:
19 scanning a scanned region while an original is located in the scanned region;
20 generating a digital image file from the scan;

21 detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern of the
22 original from the digital image file; and

23 removing image data from the digital image file lying outside of a region of the
24 digital image file having the at least one of a background color and a background pattern.

25 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the step of detecting at least one of a
26 background color and a background pattern comprises:

27 detecting at least one of a background color and a background pattern that
28 comprises greater than a predetermined amount of an area of the original.